

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY UPDATE
February 12 - 18, 2015

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1. [Obama: Carter 'Hitting the Ground Running' \(02-17-2015\)](#)

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, 2015 – President Barack Obama said his White House meeting today with Defense Secretary Ash Carter, who took the oath of office this morning, covered a range of security issues from violent extremism to Ukraine to maintaining the military.

“I just had an opportunity to meet for the first time in his official capacity with my new secretary of defense, Ash Carter, who talked about a wide range of security challenges and opportunities that we face around the world -- everything from making sure that we are dismantling the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and not only stabilizing the situation in Iraq but addressing the foreign fighter issue and countering the narrative of violent extremism that has been turbocharged through the Internet,” the president told reporters.

“We had a chance to talk about the situation throughout Ukraine,” Obama continued. “We also had an opportunity to talk about how we maintain the strongest and most effective military in the world and how we keep faith with our outstanding men and women in uniform.”

The commander in chief said he could not be more confident that Carter will do an outstanding job as secretary of defense.

“And he is hitting the ground running, having already spent a lot of time in this administration and in the Pentagon,” the president noted.

“So I want to thank the Senate for confirming him almost unanimously,” Obama said. “And I look forward to working with him in the years to come. I think America will be well served by Mr. Ash Carter.”

Biographies:

[Ash Carter](#)

Related Articles:

[Carter Takes Oath of Office in White House Ceremony](#)

[Obama on Confirmation of Ashton Carter as Defense Secretary](#)

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[Special Report: The Defense Department Welcomes Ash Carter, 25th Secretary of Defense](#)

2. Carter Takes Office Today as 25th Defense Secretary (02-17-2015)

By Cheryl Pellerin

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, 2015 – Ash Carter becomes the 25th secretary of defense today after having served previously as deputy defense secretary, defense acquisition chief and assistant secretary for global strategic affairs.

When President Barack Obama nominated Carter for the position -- calling Carter an innovator and a reformer who knows the Defense Department inside and out -- the president said, “On Day One, he’s going to hit the ground running.”

At his Feb. 4 Senate Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing, Carter described the work that lies ahead for him and the department.

“I think we are in a time,” he told the Senate panel, “where the number and severity of risks is something I’ve not seen before in my life.”

Risks to the Nation

For Carter, the job will include dealing with coalition responsibilities in Afghanistan and Iraq, and what he described as “the malignant and savage terrorism” emanating from turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa.

He’ll also take on what has become a reversion to what he’s called old-style security thinking in parts of Europe, long-standing tensions and rapid changes in Asia, a continuing imperative to counter the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and dangers in new domains such as cyber.

Carter’s own expertise, experience, travels and interests in defense and national security have prepared him precisely to deal with these challenges and more.

As former U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman said in introductory remarks during Carter's hearing, "It would really be hard to find someone to serve as secretary of defense who combines as much practical Pentagon experience with so deep a background in national security policy as Ash Carter."

Issues and Allies in NATO

Over his career, Carter has developed important relationships among military and foreign policy leaders of U.S. partners and allies in NATO. In 2013, as part of an expert panel at the 49th Annual Munich Security Conference, Carter explored DoD's strategic approach to 21st-century threats for an audience of international foreign and defense ministers and security policy officials.

"I think our strength in Europe is our alliance with NATO and the political solidarity that represents, which is very important when it comes to the Baltic states and the response in Ukraine," he said during his confirmation hearing.

Carter told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee that economic and political pressure on Russia and President Vladimir Putin has to remain the center of gravity in the U.S. effort to push back against the incursion of Russian troops into Ukraine.

Budapest Memorandum

Carter was present and involved in the 1994 signing in Hungary of the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances. In the diplomatic document signed there by Ukraine, Russia, the United States and the United Kingdom, Ukraine agreed to remove all Soviet-era nuclear weapons from its territory, send them to Russian disarmament facilities and sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, all of which it did.

Russia, the United States and the United Kingdom agreed to accept Ukraine as an independent sovereign state.

"I was in Ukraine the day the last nuclear weapon rode across the border from Ukraine into Russia," Carter said. "That agreement provided for Russia to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine, which it obviously has not done."

In that agreement the United States took on a commitment not only to respect, but also to assure, "the ability of Ukraine to find its own way as an independent country," he added. "That is at stake today."

Finishing the Job in Afghanistan

Warfighters' needs -- for weapons, equipment, training and more -- were a driving force in Carter's nine official trips to Afghanistan during the International Security Assistance Force combat mission there.

Carter spent some of his last days as deputy defense secretary in Afghanistan over the Thanksgiving holiday in 2013. On Thanksgiving Day, after meeting with U.S. and Afghan military leaders and shaking hands with 150 troops at Forward Operating Base Gamberi in eastern Afghanistan's Laghman province, Carter and his wife, Stephanie, got behind the dining facility's steam tables and happily served turkey to the men and women in uniform.

At several stops, Carter was honored as a champion for troops in moving the Pentagon acquisition process beyond bureaucracy and into the life-saving business with a range of tools produced in a timely way.

A Champion for Troops

These included mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles; unmanned aerial systems; counter-roadside-bomb equipment; persistent surveillance by way of the aerostat, or an immobile balloon-type structure filled with a lifting gas -- what Carter called 'a poor man's Predator unmanned vehicle' -- and medical advances produced during the long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The campaign in Afghanistan has been close to my heart for all the time that I've been associated with the Department of Defense," he said during his confirmation hearing.

"I think success is possible there, but ... requires the United States to continue its campaign and finish the job," he added, noting that he supports the president's plan for Afghanistan but will recommend changes if he sees a need for them.

In the Middle East region, Carter told the Senate panel, he sees two "immediate, substantial dangers" -- the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and Iran.

A Serious Complication

Carter called Iran's role a "serious complication" in the region and in the coalition fight against ISIL being waged in Iraq and stretching across the border into Syria.

During his hearing, in answer to a question about reports of Iran's recent use of a two-stage rocket to place another satellite in orbit, Carter said continued Iranian development of ballistic missile technology is "a threat not only to the United States but friends and allies in the region, and it's just one of the things Iran is doing that is dangerous."

"That's one of the reasons why we need to keep our missile defenses and especially our intercontinental ballistic missile defenses current, capable and large enough in size to deal with both the prospective Iranian threat and the also very real North Korean ICBM threat," Carter explained.

On the international fight against ISIL, Carter said that regional partners in the fight will help the United States make sure the defeat inflicted on ISIL is lasting, and that it keeps ISIL from creating breeding grounds for its "malignant and vicious kind of terrorism." U.S. involvement is essential and necessary, he added, but not sufficient by itself for lasting victory.

Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific Region

During his Jan. 20 State of the Union address, Obama said the United States is modernizing alliances in the Asia-Pacific region while making sure other nations play by the rules in how they trade, resolve maritime disputes and work to meet common international challenges like nonproliferation and disaster relief.

A big part of the transition is the military rebalance to the region, where Carter traveled extensively as deputy secretary to explain the rebalance and to reassure political and military leaders there that budget cuts would not affect the U.S. commitment.

In 2013, a March trip to Asia included visits to defense and government officials in Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and the Philippines. In Indonesia, as part of an international panel at the third Jakarta International Defense Dialogue, Carter said the United States is serious about its commitment to the region and detailed elements in motion of a rebalance called for in the department's 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance.

Keeping Peace and Stability

Carter called the rebalance a commitment to continue the pivotal American military role in the Asia-Pacific theater, a presence that for decades has kept peace and stability there, and created an environment for explosive economic growth.

At his confirmation hearing, Carter said the United States could rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region while keeping its commitments in the Middle East and Europe.

"My view is that we can and must," he added. Though ISIL and events in Ukraine are critically important and require much attention, "we have to remember that half the population of the world and half its economy is in the Asia-Pacific region," he said.

Multilaterally, Carter has said, DoD recognizes the importance of strengthening regional institutions such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which plays a critical role in maintaining regional stability and resolving disputes through diplomacy.

The Importance of South Asia

The rebalance is a transition not only to the Asia-Pacific but within the region, Carter told the Senate panel. As former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's deputy, Carter's portfolio included serving as the department's point man in defense relations with India.

"India is, in my view, destined to be a strategic partner of the United States," Carter said, characterizing the nation as a large democracy that shares many U.S. political values and the values of pluralism.

"I think that destiny will bring us together, but I'm for hastening that," he added, with collaborative efforts in military-to-military relations and defense and technology cooperation.

For all their economic relations, India and every other country in South Asia depend on peaceful relations and trade with one another, Carter observed at the time.

"The top priority of all those governments, they'll tell you, is economic prosperity," he added, "and that can't be had without security within their borders and with their neighbors with whom they have to trade."

The Very Newest in Technology

One tenet of the 2012 defense strategy was to pursue the very newest in technology and operational art, Carter said many times in his role as deputy defense secretary.

"Investments in this area target special operations forces, capabilities in space and in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and cyberspace," he said.

In 2012, during a keynote address to participants at the annual RSA Conference on cryptography and information security in San Francisco, Carter said DoD is deeply involved in and committed to cybersecurity and the department's responsibility to defend the nation.

"That explains, for us -- and in this I speak for the defense secretary and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other department leadership -- our real sense of urgency about cyber and our willingness, indeed eagerness, to be a leading part of, where appropriate, the march to cybersecurity that we're all just beginning."

Urgency About Cyberspace

On cyberspace, Carter said during his confirmation hearing that the federal government has a role in protecting the country from cyberattacks in the same way it has a role in protecting the country from other kinds of attacks.

"I think the government can do a lot more to exercise that responsibility without causing concerns over invasions of people's privacy," he added.

The government can share information and knowledge it has collected about threats to private networks with those private parties, for example, if proper legal safeguards are provided, Carter said. And these have less to do with privacy than they do with things such as antitrust and other important legal aspects, he added.

"I think the government can sponsor and conduct research and development that improves the tradecraft in network defense for the good of the country," he said. "So I think there's a lot we can do, and we're not anywhere near where we should be as a country."

21st-century Defense Strategy

Carter often characterized as a strategic crossroads the department's transition from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to a renewed political and economic focus on the Asia-Pacific region and the need to absorb defense budget reductions.

"These two great historical currents are coming together," Carter said in 2013, "and it's my view that they can, if managed properly, reinforce one another."

During a November 2013 address on national security leadership in Annapolis, Maryland, Carter detailed for 250 U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen the strategic tasks facing the Defense Department as the 21st century unfolds.

One of these was to maintain a technological edge over U.S. adversaries, and Carter -- who holds a doctorate in theoretical physics from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar -- said maintaining a technological edge over competitors is the surest way to deter conflict.

Maintaining a Technological Edge

The nation, he added, must continue to invest in technologies that will be essential to 21st-century defense, and the president and the department have focused on protecting critical investments, even in times of budget austerity.

DoD is increasing investments in the cyber domain because of growing threats to national security and critical infrastructure, Carter said. In the space domain, the department is rebalancing its portfolio to better defend against threats, degrade enemy space capabilities and operate in a contested environment.

The department also is investing in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and unmanned assets, he said, including platforms that launch from land and sea, and operate well above the Earth's surface and deep under the sea.

"I would say," Carter said during his confirmation hearing, "that the world continues to pose serious challenges to international order, and that the United States is indispensable to the solution of those challenges."

Biographies:

[Ash Carter](#)

Related Articles:

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[Message from Secretary Ashton Carter to all Department of Defense Personnel](#)

[Senate Confirms Carter as 25th Secretary of Defense](#)

[Carter 'Will Help Keep Our Military Strong,' President Says](#)

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3. Ambassador Power at U.N. Session on Situation in Ukraine (02-17-2015)

Explanation of Vote by Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at a Security Council Session on the Situation in Ukraine, February 17, 2015

Thank you. We've gotten used to living in an upside-down world with respect to Ukraine. Russia speaks of peace, and then fuels conflict. Russia signs agreements, and then does everything within its power to undermine them. Russia champions the sovereignty of nations, and then acts as if a neighbor's borders do not exist. Yet even for those of us growing accustomed to living in an upside-down world, the idea that Russia – which manufactured and continues to escalate the violence in Ukraine – has tabled a resolution today calling for the conflict's peaceful solution, is ironic, to say the least. Bitterly ironic, given that this Council has dedicated some thirty meetings to calling on Russia to stop escalating the very same conflict, and given the human consequences that are growing daily.

Even as Russia puts forward this resolution, separatists that Russia has trained, armed and that it fights alongside are laying ruthless and deadly siege to the Ukrainian-held city of Debaltseve, approximately 30 to 40 kilometers beyond lines established by the September Minsk agreements. Throughout the day, we've heard conflicting reports as to whether Debaltseve has fallen. According to press reports, the so-called "road of life" leading out of Debaltseve has become a "road of death," littered with the bodies of Ukrainian soldiers. At just the time this Council is calling for the cease-fire that was supposed to take effect Saturday night at midnight, Russia is backing an all-out assault.

We do not know how many civilians are left in Debaltseve, because Russia and the separatists it supports have refused to guarantee the safety of impartial OSCE monitors who have been trying for

days to enter the area – a commitment that, in this upside-down world, Russia and the separatists made on February 12th at Minsk.

But we know from credible press reports that thousands of civilians in Debaltseve and neighboring villages have been sheltering from heavy shelling in dank basements, often without running water, food, electricity, or basic medical supplies. We know that many of the civilians left, who are enduring the terror of this relentless assault, are the elderly and small children – people who could not evacuate on their own.

And even with such limited information, we know with certainty that at the same time that Russia signs onto yet another agreement committing itself to de-escalation and peace, forces that Russia trains, equips, and joins on the battlefield have only escalated this fighting, grabbing more territory and killing the Ukrainian soldiers who stand in their way.

We are caught in a deadly feedback loop. International leaders engage in rigorous, exhaustive negotiations to get Russia to commit to peace – in Geneva, in Normandy, in September in Minsk, in Berlin in February, and then again in Minsk on February 12th when the implementations were signed; and now in New York. Yet Russia's commitments have no bearing on the actions of its soldiers and the separatists they back on the ground.

Mr. President, the United States has maintained the same position across thirty meetings before this Council with respect to Ukraine. Let me reiterate that position. We are for peace in Ukraine. We are for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity. We are for ending the violence in eastern Ukraine that has taken more than 5,600 lives since last April, and displaced already approximately one million people. We are for all of the signatories to the agreements signed in Minsk in September 2014 – particularly Russia and the separatists they back – fulfilling the commitments that they have made. And we are for the "Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements" of September 5 and September 19th, the package of measures endorsed last week by the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France. To be clear, the February 12th implementation package is a roadmap to fulfilling commitments made by these same signatories in the September Minsk Agreements.

President Hollande, President Poroshenko, Chancellor Merkel, and President Putin each made this clear when they endorsed the implementation package on February 12th and issued their joint declaration that they "remain committed to the implementation of the Minsk Agreements." The "Minsk Agreements" in the title – plural – refer to those signed on September 5 and September 19 by the same signatories, while the "measures for implementation" in the title make clear that the February 12th package was designed to begin carrying out the September agreements, and not to supplant them, as Russia has now begun to argue.

The United States rejects any interpretation of this resolution that would abrogate the parties' earlier commitments. All parties must implement all of the commitments made in the September Minsk agreements. The implementation steps agreed upon in the February 12th package include a comprehensive cease-fire; the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the September line of contact; the release of all hostages; and the eventual restoration of Ukraine's territorial sovereignty and control of its international border.

Too often, debates in this Council occur in a vacuum, removed from the real world. In the real world, a man named Aleksei Kravchenko, a 73-year-old in the Ukrainian held-town of Svitlodarsk, near Debaltseve, recently told a reporter that he had spent nights huddled together with his grandchildren in a bomb shelter on his property as shelling continued through the night. Aleksei

told the reporter that his grandchildren said to him in the shelter, “Grandpa, I don’t want to die young.” He said, “I held my grandchildren, and they were shaking, and I looked in their eyes, and they were afraid.” With the February 12th agreement, Aleksei said, “Now we are hoping.” The fighting, unfortunately, has in fact increased dramatically near Aleksei’s home.

But we call on Russia to translate hope into real action; to translate hope into real results, and to do so urgently.

Today’s Council session is an effort to throw the Council’s weight behind an agreement already jeopardized by statements by the separatists dismissing the full cease-fire, by their continued attacks on Debaltseve, and by the separatists’ refusal – together with Russia’s – to allow access to the OSCE’s Special Monitoring Mission. We are looking to Russia, which manufactured and fueled this conflict, to leave the upside-down world it has created and to honor the resolution it tabled today supporting efforts to end it. Thank you.

Related Statement:

[State Department on Ceasefire Violations in Ukraine](#)

4. United States Provides \$125 Million to the World Food Program for the Syria Crisis (02-17-2015)

Increasing its commitment to help those affected by the crisis in Syria, the United States is providing an additional \$125 million in humanitarian assistance to the UN World Food Program (WFP), which feeds nearly six million Syrians and refugees from Syria every month. The announcement was made today by Kelly Clements, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, and Jack Myer, Principal Regional Advisor/Europe, Middle East and Central Asia, USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, in Geneva, Switzerland.

More than \$50 million of this funding will support WFP’s distribution of monthly food parcels to the 4 million people in urgent need of food assistance within Syria. This is a continuation of U.S. humanitarian assistance that has provided more than \$1.5 billion to humanitarian agencies operating in all of Syria’s 14 governorates.

To help neighboring countries respond to the massive refugee influx, more than \$70 million of the new funding is supporting WFP’s electronic food voucher program, which gives refugees the freedom to shop for needed items in conveniently accessible markets. Since 2013, the voucher program—funded in large part by the United States—has provided critical food assistance to refugees while also contributing approximately \$1 billion to the economies of Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, and Iraq. The program has also bolstered local economies and reduced the strain placed on communities that have generously opened their doors to refugees from Syria.

The United States is the single largest donor of humanitarian assistance to the Syrian crisis, providing more than \$3 billion since the start of the conflict, including over \$1.2 billion in food assistance, to help millions of people inside Syria and beyond its borders receive food, urgent medical care, and much-needed relief supplies.

Related Sites:

[U.S. Envoy Praises Power on Detention of Human Rights Defender in Syria](#)

5. Facts on U.S. Export Policy for Military Unmanned Aerial Systems (02-17-2015)

U.S. Export Policy for Military Unmanned Aerial Systems

The United States is the world's technological leader in the development and deployment of military Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). As other nations begin to employ military UAS more regularly and as the nascent commercial UAS market emerges, the United States has a responsibility to ensure that sales, transfers, and subsequent use of all U.S.-origin UAS are responsible and consistent with U.S. national security and foreign policy interests, including economic security, as well as with U.S. values and international standards.

As a result, the United States has established a new policy designed specifically for U.S.-origin military and commercial UAS. This new policy, governing the international sale, transfer and subsequent use of U.S.-origin military UAS, supplements and builds upon the U.S. Conventional Arms Transfer Policy and is consistent with the requirements of the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act which govern all U.S. military transfers. The new policy also governs the international sale, transfer and subsequent use of U.S.-origin commercial UAS, supplementing and building upon the Export Administration Regulations which govern all U.S. commercial transfers.

The new export policy is part of a broader United States UAS policy review which includes plans to work with other countries to shape international standards for the sale, transfer, and subsequent use of military UAS.

Enhanced Controls on the Export of U.S.-Origin Military UASs

The United States is committed to stringent standards for the sale, transfer, and subsequent use of U.S.-origin military UAS. The United States' new UAS export policy establishes the standards by which the United States will assess, on a case-by-case basis under the U.S. Conventional Arms Transfer Policy, potential exports of military UASs, including armed systems. The new export policy puts in place stringent conditions on the sale or transfer of military UAS, including potential requirements for:

- Sales and transfers of sensitive systems to be made through the government-to-government Foreign Military Sales program;
- Review of potential transfers to be made through the Department of Defense Technology Security and Foreign Disclosure processes;
- Each recipient nation to be required to agree to end-use assurances as a condition of sale or transfer;
- End-use monitoring and potential additional security conditions to be required; and
- All sales and transfers to include agreement to principles for proper use.

The new policy also maintains the United States' long-standing commitments under the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which subjects transfers of military and commercial systems that cross the threshold of MTCR Category I (i.e., UAS that are capable of a range of at least 300 kilometers and are capable of carrying a payload of at least 500 kilograms) to a "strong presumption of denial" for export but also permits such exports on "rare occasions" that are well justified in terms of the nonproliferation and export control factors specified in the MTCR Guidelines.

Principles for Proper Use of U.S.-Origin Military UAS

As the most active user of military UAS, and as an increasing number of nations are acquiring and employing UASs to support a range of missions, the United States has an interest in ensuring that these systems are used lawfully and responsibly. Accordingly, under the new UAS export policy, the United States will require recipients of U.S.-origin military UAS to agree to the following principles guiding proper use before the United States will authorize any sales or transfers of military UASs:

- Recipients are to use these systems in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable;
- Armed and other advanced UAS are to be used in operations involving the use of force only when there is a lawful basis for use of force under international law, such as national self-defense;
- Recipients are not to use military UAS to conduct unlawful surveillance or use unlawful force against their domestic populations; and
- As appropriate, recipients shall provide UAS operators technical and doctrinal training on the use of these systems to reduce the risk of unintended injury or damage.

Enhanced Controls on the Export of U.S.-Origin Commercial UAS

The United States is equally committed to stringent standards for the sale, transfer, and subsequent use of U.S.-origin commercial UAS, to include future commercial MTCR Category I systems. All commercial UAS will be reviewed under the requirements and licensing policies described in the Export Administration Regulations.

Implications of the New Policy

The new U.S. UAS export policy provides a disciplined and rigorous framework within which the United States will exercise restraint in sales and transfers and advance its national security and foreign policy interests, which includes enhancing the operational capabilities and capacity of trusted partner nations, increasing U.S. interoperability with these partners for coalition operations, ensuring responsible use of these systems, and easing the stress on U.S. force structure for these capabilities. It also ensures appropriate participation for U.S. industry in the emerging commercial UAS market, which will contribute to the health of the U.S. industrial base, and thus to U.S. national security which includes economic security.

The United States is committed to working with other countries to adopt similar standards for the sale, transfer, and subsequent use for military UAS.

6. Joint Statement on Libya by U.S., 6 European Nations (02-17-2015)

This is the text of a joint statement on Libya by the governments of France, Italy, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States issued on February 17.

The governments of France, Italy, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States strongly condemn all acts of terrorism in Libya. The heinous murder of twenty-one Egyptian citizens in Libya by ISIL-affiliated terrorists once again underscores the urgent need for a political resolution to the conflict in Libya, the continuation of which only benefits terrorist groups, including ISIL. Terrorism affects all Libyans, and no one faction can confront alone the challenges

facing Libya. The United Nations-led process to establish a national unity government provides the best hope for Libyans to address the terrorist threat and to confront the violence and instability that impedes Libya's political transition and development. The international community is prepared to fully support a unity government in addressing Libya's current challenges.

Special Representative to the Secretary General Bernardino Leon will convene meetings in the coming days to build further Libyan support for a national unity government. We commend those parties that have so far participated in the talks and note the statements of support by the House of Representatives and Misratan Municipal Council and others for this process. We strongly encourage all parties, including individuals associated with the former General National Congress (GNC), to seize this opportunity to join the UN process in the coming days in a constructive spirit of reconciliation if they hope to shape Libya's political future. The urgency of the terrorist threat demands swift progress in the political process, based on clear timelines.

Those who seek to impede this process and Libya's democratic transition, four years after the revolution, will not be allowed to condemn Libya to chaos and extremism. They will be held by accountable by the Libyan people and the international community for their actions.

7. G7 Leaders Statement on Ukraine (02-13-2015)

We, the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission welcome the "Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements" adopted by their original signatories on 12th February 2015 in Minsk. Implementation of the "Minsk Package" offers a way forward to a comprehensive, sustainable, and peaceful resolution to the crisis in eastern Ukraine.

However, the G7 remains concerned about the situation in Ukraine, in particular in view of the fighting around Debaltseve where Russian-backed separatist militias are operating beyond the line of contact agreed upon in the Minsk agreements of September 2014, causing numerous civilian casualties. We urge all sides to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Package and to carry out its measures without delay, starting with a ceasefire on the 15th of February. All parties should refrain from actions in the coming days that would hinder the start of the ceasefire. The G7 stands ready to adopt appropriate measures against those who violate the "Minsk package" and therefore intensify the costs for them, in particular against those who do not observe the agreed comprehensive ceasefire and withdrawal of heavy weapons.

We again condemn Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea which is in violation of international law.

The G7 welcomes the agreement in principle reached on the 12th of February by the IMF and the government of Ukraine on a new economic reform program that will be supported by an IMF Extended Fund Facility. The G7 members look forward to prompt consideration of the program by the IMF Executive Board. We are providing financial assistance to support Ukraine. This international assistance will help Ukraine in the ambitious economic reforms it is undertaking to restore economic growth and improve the living standards of the Ukrainian people. We commend the government of Ukraine for its commitment to implement this ambitious reform agenda with regard to economic, rule-of-law, and democratic reforms.

Related Sites:

[White House on Ukraine's Sovereignty, Minsk Agreement](#)

[Obama's Call on Ukraine with Chancellor Merkel of Germany](#)

[President Obama's Call with President Poroshenko of Ukraine](#)
[Statement by Secretary Kerry](#)
[Cease-fire Violations in Ukraine](#)
[DipNote](#)
[Ukraine](#)

8. [Air Force Chief: Force Modernization Not Optional \(02-12-2015\)](#)

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 2015 – It is imperative to modernize the Air Force despite difficult budgeting choices that will have to be made, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III said today in Orlando, Florida.

Speaking during the Air Force Association Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition, the general discussed the need for force modernization.

“We must modernize the Air Force,” he said. “This isn’t optional; we must do it. And it will be painful, because we have to make very difficult choices to get the money inside our topline at current funding levels to do it.”

Aging Fleets

Welsh explained how aging fleets and less personnel strength can affect the Air Force’s mission.

“Most of you will remember Desert Shield and Desert Storm,” he said. “When we deployed in 1990 to that conflict, the United States Air Force had 188 fighter squadrons -- 188. In the FY ‘16 budget, we’ll go to 49; 188 to 49.”

Welsh noted in 1990, there were 511,000 active duty airmen; now the Air Force has 313,000 -- a 40 percent smaller force.

“There is no excess capacity anymore,” he said. “There is no bench to go to in the Air Force. Everything’s committed to the fight.”

“I’d love to be able to tell you that, that much smaller force is more modern, more capable and younger, but I can’t,” Welsh said.

Providing perspective on the age of the fleet, Welsh said during Desert Storm the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress wasn’t considered for bombing Baghdad.

“If we had used the B-17 in the first Gulf War,” he said, “it would have been five years younger at that time than the B-52, the KC-135 and the U-2 are today.”

“We have 12 fleets of airplanes ... that qualify for antique license plates right here in the great state of Florida,” Welsh said. “And we have four that qualify for ... [AARP].”

NASCAR Analogy

The general used a NASCAR race picture led by the #43 Air Force-sponsored stock car to further drive home his point.

“Four laps before this picture was taken, the 43 car had a four- to five-car-length lead,” Welsh said.

“For the last couple of laps, the #41 and #55 cars have been steadily closing,” he said. “The gap’s shrinking just like our technology lap, just like our capacity gap is shrinking.”

When do we get to the point, Welsh asked, where no matter how fast #43 tries to accelerate, the momentum gained by 41 and 55 puts them in the lead?

“That’s the game we’re playing,” he said. “Tough game; maybe a dangerous one.”

Resetting the Force

Welsh said Air Force leadership has been trying to reset some areas for the last couple of years.

“Not because they’re broken,” he said, “not because we’re not doing great work, but because we need to reset some things. We’ve done this before.”

Following World War I, Welsh said, the Army Air Corps noted the “big lessons” learned, which were reconnaissance and pursuit. Then, he said, during World War II the lessons of strategic bombardment became clear.

“We came out of World War II with this idea that strategic bombardment was the future of air forces,” Welsh said. Except for a tactical diversion in Korea, he said, the service’s leaders focused on building the best strategic Air Force they could.

The general said Vietnam yielded tactical lessons learned, which led to a “really good” tactical and strategic Air Force.

Then 1990 came, Welsh said, “and we made Operation Desert Storm look ridiculously easy.

“It wasn’t that easy, but we were that good and that large,” he said. “And then for the last 25 years, we’ve been fighting a different type of enemy -- a shadowy enemy, harder to pin down, harder to isolate.”

Serving in more of a counterinsurgency supporting role, Welsh said, the Air Force “revolutionized and gave birth” to an entirely new generation of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability, and a new understanding of how it could be used.

“Where we’ve come in the last 25 years in ISR is stunning,” he said. “We operationalized space capabilities; we jumped into the cyber domain. But it’s been about 25 years and that’s about the cycle for these resets — it’s time to do it again.”

Next for the Air Force

Welsh noted there are specific areas in need for reset -- namely infrastructure.

“We’ve spent a lot of time lately taking money out of this area to pay for operational activity as our budgets were stressed,” he said.

“But there is infrastructure in our Air Force which creates mission capability,” Welsh said. “I’ll refer to it as critical mission infrastructure. This isn’t something like you can just not build another

dorm and it won't hurt you over time ... this is stuff that will keep you from developing combat capability."

This infrastructure, he said, includes test facilities, training ranges and simulation, education infrastructure and nuclear infrastructure -- things that the service cannot do without.

"We have got to get back," Welsh said, "to a persistent, consistent investment in this kind of infrastructure, or our Air Force will break 10 years from now."

Biographies:

[Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III](#)

Related Sites:

[U.S. Air Force](#)

9. Amb. Power at U.N. Session on Threats to Global Peace, Security (02-12-2015)

Explanation of Vote by Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at a Security Council Session on Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Threats, February 12, 2015

Today the Security Council adopted a robust Chapter VII resolution to counter the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the al-Nusra Front, and other individuals and entities associated with al-Qaeda. The unanimous vote in favor of Resolution 2200* shows our joint commitment to confronting violent extremist groups that threaten our collective security and the human rights the United Nations was created to defend.

The United States strongly supports today's resolution, which is part of a comprehensive strategy to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL. The strategy also includes coordinated efforts by many nations to conduct robust military operations to degrade ISIL's military capabilities; to enact tougher laws and foster better cooperation to stop the flow of foreign terrorist fighters who fill ISIL's ranks; and to counter the violent ideologies that attract people to ISIL and help fuel the group's attacks.

In recent weeks and months, we have seen what this strategy can yield. Together with partners, we are degrading ISIL's leadership capabilities; knocking out oil fields, refineries, and other associated infrastructure that ISIL controls; and supporting troops on the ground as they fight to recapture territory from the group, as was achieved in Kobani.

As a result of these and other efforts, ISIL is having a harder time generating new funds needed to carry out its operations. Today's resolution aims to make that effort even more challenging, by using sanctions and other punitive tools to target three ISIL income streams.

First, the resolution provides states with clear, practical instruction for how to cut off ISIL's illicit oil smuggling. UN sanctions already require states to stop this trade. But this resolution also presses states to step up their efforts to prevent and disrupt the movement of vehicles going to and from ISIL and al-Nusra Front-controlled areas, to stop the flow of assets traded by the groups -- whether oil, precious metals and minerals, or refining equipment.

Second, by imposing a new ban on the trade in smuggled Syrian antiquities, this resolution both cuts off a source of ISIL revenue and helps protect an irreplaceable cultural heritage, of the region

and of the world. To help stop this trade, the United States has sponsored the publication of so-called “Emergency Red Lists” of Syrian and Iraqi antiquities at risk, which can help international law enforcement catch antiquities trafficked out of these countries.

Third, the resolution reinforces the existing prohibition in UN sanctions on all payments and donations to ISIL, al-Nusra Front, and other al-Qaeda affiliates – including ransoms – which perpetuate a cycle of horrific brutality, giving these groups resources to carry out more murderous acts and incentivizing them to take more people captive.

The devastating consequences of such kidnappings and abductions have been felt by families, communities, and whole nations in recent weeks and months. Lieutenant Muath al-Kasaesbeh, the Jordanian pilot executed by ISIL, was just 26 when he was murdered. A devout Muslim, in his last conversation with his wife he reminded her to pray and told her he had performed a double prayer for martyrs.

Kenji Goto, age 47, a Japanese journalist executed by ISIL, had gone to Syria to search for a kidnapped colleague and friend, Haruna Yukawa, who was also killed. Kenji spent his life writing about conflicts; an award-winning children’s book he wrote in 2006, *I Want Peace Rather Than a Diamond*, told the story of a former child soldier in Sierra Leone.

Kayla Mueller, a 26-year-old American, had been drawn to the region to alleviate the suffering of Syrians, volunteering to work with refugee children in neighboring Turkey. In an interview before she was abducted by ISIL and later killed, she said, “For as long as I live, I will not let this suffering be normal – something we just accept.” The loss of people like Muath, Kenji, Haruna, and Kayla deepens our resolve to eradicate the violent group that cuts their lives short.

At the same time as we applaud the Council’s resolute action to address the threat posed by ISIL, we lament the Council’s persistent failure to address one of the main factors that led to the group’s rise. There is no better recruiting tool for ISIL than the atrocities of the Assad regime, which has dropped barrels bombs on civilians, used chemical weapons on its own people, and tortured tens of thousands more in its prisons. We regret that we were not able to show the same unity we have shown today in passing the critically important resolution on ISIL when it came to the crimes of the Assad regime.

So just as we condemn the monstrosities perpetrated by ISIL, we also must continue to condemn the brutality of the Assad regime, which has long since lost the legitimacy to lead, and reject the arguments of those who claim that we must partner with the regime to effectively confront violent extremists. As the war in Syria grinds on, we renew our call on the Council to press for the political solution needed to end the tremendous suffering of the Syrian people.

Thank you.

10. Fact Sheet on U.N. Security Council Resolution 2199 on ISIL (02-12-2015)

On February 12, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2199 to respond to the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as well as the Al Nusra Front (ANF) and other groups associated with Al-Qaida (AQ).

Adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, this resolution provides for a range of tools, including sanctions and other binding measures, to degrade these terrorist organizations' ability to

carry out brutal attacks. It focuses extensively on terrorist financial support networks, particularly ISIL's raising of funds through oil smuggling, looting of antiquities, kidnapping for ransom and other illicit activities.

This resolution builds upon UN Security Council Resolution 2170 (2014), the Council's first major resolution on the ISIL threat that was adopted in August 2014.

The core elements of Resolution 2199 address:

1. Oil Smuggling

- Condemns any direct and indirect trade, in particular of oil and oil products, with ISIL, ANF, and AQ-related groups;
- Clarifies that existing UN sanctions prohibit the trade in oil and refined oil products, as well as modular refineries, related materials, and other natural resources, with ISIL, ANF and AQ-related groups;
- Threatens to impose sanctions on those who engage in any direct or indirect trade with ISIL, ANF, and AQ-related groups, including those involved in the oil trade with ISIL;
- Emphasizes that all states must freeze all assets of ISIL, ANF, and AQ-related groups, as well as those of their agents (for example, intermediaries and middlemen), including their oil, oil products, modular refineries, and related material;
- Reaffirms that states are required to bring to justice supporters of terrorism and emphasizes that such support can come from trade in oil and related products;
- Requires states to report to the Security Council's 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee any interdictions of oil, oil products, modular refineries, and related material interdicted en route to ISIL, ANF and AQ-related groups;
- Calls on states to cooperate in stopping illicit oil trafficking benefiting ISIL, ANF, and AQ-related groups (for example, by sharing information on smuggling routes, providing capacity building assistance to counter smuggling, etc.);
- Expresses concern that vehicles going to and coming from ISIL- and ANF-controlled areas of Syria and Iraq could be carrying assets -- including oil, refined products, modular refineries, precious metals and minerals (gold, silver, copper and diamonds), grain, livestock, machinery, electronics, and cigarettes-- for sale or barter to or by those terrorist groups, and encourages states to step up their efforts to prevent and disrupt such activity;

2. Looting of Antiquities

- Condemns the destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria, including targeted destruction of religious sites and objects;
- Notes with concern that ISIL, ANF and AQ-related groups are generating income from the direct or indirect trade in looting and smuggling of cultural heritage items;
- Reaffirms an existing ban on the illicit trade of antiquities from Iraq;

- Imposes a new ban on the illicit trade of antiquities from Syria;

3. Kidnapping for Ransom

- Reaffirms previous calls on states to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payments or from political concessions;
- Reaffirms that UN sanctions prohibit ransom payments to UN-listed groups (including ISIL and ANF);
- Reaffirms the need for states to cooperate closely during kidnapping incidents;

4. Donations and Finance

- Expresses grave concern about continued reports of donations to ISIL, ANF, and AQ-related groups;
- Urges Member States to encourage their financial institutions to prevent these terrorist groups from accessing the international financial system;

5. Arms

- Reaffirms existing UN sanctions that require states not to supply ISIL, ANF, and AQ-related groups with arms;
- Calls upon all states to consider measures to prevent the proliferation of all arms, in particular man-portable surface-to-air missiles (MANAPDS), if there is a reasonable suspicion that ISIL, ANF, and AQ-related groups would obtain such items;

6. UN Follow-up and Monitoring

- Calls upon states to report to the Security Council's 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee within 120 days on steps taken to comply with the measures imposed in this resolution;
 - Requests the UN's 1267 Al-Qaida sanctions Monitoring Team to monitor the impact of these measures and provide an impact assessment in six months.
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